

MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2017

What is Project Cope 165?

On 1st April 2017, 2G mobile phone networks will be discontinued in Singapore. To many Singaporeans this is a non-event as they are already using either a 3G or a 4G phone. This may seem to be progress, but not for everyone. There is a good number of individuals in our society who will be left out and without any assistance, they will be left disconnected. Among those who belong to this vulnerable group are the elderly poor and some migrant workers. A group of young people realised this problem and decided to do something to help people from these disadvantaged groups. Project Cope 165 is the result of this.

Project Cope 165 consists of the following activities:

- Drive to get people to donate their old unused 3G or 4G phones. These are redistributed to the needy.
- Volunteers check that the phones are in working order, ensure that the phones' memory are wiped and the phone reset.
- Drive to collect money donations which is used to buy new 3G SIM cards for those who need to change their SIM cards. The money is also used to buy basic 3G phones to make up for the shortfall of phones needed.
- Volunteers bring the seniors to Telco shops for them to change their SIM cards.
- Phones are distributed to the seniors and migrant workers. When distributing the phones, volunteers are on hand to help the seniors change their SIM cards over to their new phones and also to help them learn how to use their new phones.
- Phones are distributed to migrant workers who need them through HOME.

This project is the brainchild of Ms Ed-Linddi Ong, the Lasallian Youth Coordinator for Singapore, who rallied the young people of the *Lasallian Youth Network (LYNK)* and other members of the larger Lasallian Family to embark on this month long effort. *The Lasallian Family in Singapore* has given their support for this project in conjunction with their celebration of the 165th anniversary of the Lasallian presence in Singapore.

What is the Lasallian Family in Singapore?

In 1852, six 'Brothers' from the catholic La Salle religious order arrived in Singapore from France and opened their first school in Asia here. Since then, 165 years later, there are 7 Lasallian schools in Singapore, namely:

St Anthony's Primary School (SAPS)
St Stephen's School (SSS)
St Joseph's Institution Junior (SJII)
De La Salle School (DLSS)
St Joseph's Institution (SJI)
St Patrick's School (SPS)
St Joseph's Institution International (SJII)



On top of that, the Lasallian Family here also include:

Hope House

LASALLE College of the Arts (an affiliated college)

Lasallian Youth Network (LYNK)

The Lasallian Family in Singapore is part of the International Lasallian Family which has schools, colleges, universities, centres and other organisations in over 80 countries around the world.

What is the Lasallian Youth Network (LYNK)?

The Lasallian Youth Network is an informal network of young people from the age of 15 and upwards. Most of these young people are either current students or alumni of our Lasallian schools here in Singapore, as well as those from Lasallian institutions elsewhere. There are also those who are from other schools but are involved with us in other LYNK service projects.

Useful links for additional information:

Project information

sgprojectcope165.weebly.com

LYNK Instagram

[sglynk](https://www.instagram.com/sglynk)

LYNK Facebook

Lasallian Youth Network (LYNK), Singapore

For more information, please email sglynk@gmail.com or call 96180118.



Clockwise from top left: Collecting used phones; Accompanying seniors to Telco shops; Teaching seniors how to use a 3G phone; Checking donated phones.

Higher-resolution versions of these and other photographs can be downloaded from:

<https://tinyurl.com/kuv949y>